

STATEMENT BY COLONEL KIANG CHENG YING,
JUDGE, MILITARY COURT, GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
THE ELEVENTH WAR ZONE OF CHINA

JAPANESE AGGRESSION, NARCOTIZATION AND ATROCITIES
IN CHINA

My name is Cheng-Ting KIANG. I am a native of Chi-Ho Hsien, Shantung Province, China. I am 36 years old now. At present I am serving as a Judge of the Military Court for Trying War Criminals in the General Headquarters of the Eleventh War Zone of China. When the war broke out at Marco Polo Bridge on July 7th, 1937, I was Judge Advocate (with the rank of Colonel) of the Hopei-Chahar Pacification Headquarters under the commander of General Sung Che-Yuan who was then concurrently Commander of the 29th Army. I hereby make the following statement, concerning either events I have personally gone through or facts the truth of which I can vouch out of my personal knowledge.

(I) Prior to the outbreak of war at the Marco Polo Bridge on July 7th, 1937, Japanese troops in various parts of North China indulged themselves in provocative acts. The following two incidents may be cited:

(A) The case of loss of Japanese Army Horses at Feng-Tai.

Sometime in the Winter of 1936 and in the Spring of 1937, a number of Japanese Army horses without any riders on ran into Chinese barracks, to the amazement of Chinese officers and soldiers. Japanese protested, charging Chinese soldiers with taking these horses by force. Chinese authorities had these horses sent back to the Japanese barracks by Chinese soldiers who were badly beaten by the Japanese soldiers there. As a result of the appeasement policy then adopted by our Government, the incident was closed through negotiation.

(B) The Case of a Wounded Japanese Soldier in Feng-Tai.

On a certain day in April, 1937, AKAFUJI, Soji () the Commander of Japanese Gendarme (Military Police) stationed in Peiping, called at the Hopei-Chahar Pacification Headquarters, with a number of his subordinates, and protested that the Chinese Army at Fengtai took hostile action against the Japanese unit also stationed there by inflicting bayonet wounds upon a Japanese soldier. As the Chinese authorities had no report on the matter, I was ordered to proceed to Fengtai with Commander AKAFUJI to make investigations on the spot. In one of the Japanese barracks there a Japanese soldier was found to be slightly wounded by bayonet near the ribs. But, after detailed and careful examination which lasted up to 4 a.m. in the morning, responsibility on the Chinese side could not be established. But the Japanese used this pretext and strongly demanded the withdrawal of the Chinese Army stationed at Fengtai. This demand was reluctantly complied with. Since Fengtai was a strategical key-point on the Peiping-Tientsin Railway south of Peiping, the withdrawal of the Chinese Army there rendered it almost impossible to defend Peiping. War broke out at Marco Polo Bridge in less than 3 months thereafter. The case cited here evidently proved that Japanese aggression was carried out after deliberate and predetermined scheming and planning.

20 345

The Japanese units used to engage in maneuvering around Peiping. On July 7th, 1937, in one of these maneuvers, the Japanese claimed that one of the soldiers was missing. They attributed it to the hostile action on the part of Chinese soldiers or Chinese people. Without previous warning the Japanese units began to bombard the walled city of Wang Ping Hsien and Peiping. Subsequent information revealed that General Tashiro (), Commander of the Japanese Garrison Forces in Tientsin, and one of his staff Kawachi () were actually responsible for this unwarranted act of war. The Chinese Government, through diplomatic channels, sought to reach a peaceful settlement by localizing the incident. On July 24th, the Chinese military authorities in Peiping even went as far as to order the removal of defence works at the gates of the city as well as in the main streets inside the city. Quite unexpectedly, however around 7 p.m. on July 25th, a large number of Japanese soldiers forced their way from Marco Polo Bridge to Kwang An Meng, one of the gates of Peiping. Some of them did succeed in getting in. But the assault was repulsed. The next day, July 26th Japanese troops attacked simultaneously Lang Feng, Feng Tai, Tung Hsien, Nan Yuan, which amounted to actual warfare. On July 28th, the Chinese Army evacuated Peiping and retreated towards the West and the South. Thus, Peiping fell into the hands of Japanese Aggressors. Among the first who entered Peiping was Kozuki () the new Commander of Japanese Garrison Forces in Tientsin, the other important Japanese Army leaders being Sakurai (), Sakai (), and Matsui (). The Japanese lost no time in capturing Tientsin, Poting, Shihmeng, Tehchow, etc. This set the conflagration which led to the Sino-Japanese War and the World War II. A series of provocative acts undertaken by the Japanese before July 7th, 1937 and the extensive operations thereafter established beyond any doubt that it was a war of aggression on the part of Japan.

(II) Before the war broke out on July 7th, 1937, Japan had engaged in planning for continental expansion and in carrying out aggression in North China. This can be seen not only in the above-mentioned events leading to the outbreak of the war, but also in the Japanese Opium and Narcotic Policy. Since 1936, many Japanese and Korean ruffians posing as regular merchants penetrated into various villages and towns in North China and engaged in manufacturing and selling of opium and other narcotic drugs. Their presence and their connections with questionable Chinese elements created many local disturbances which were brought to the attention of the Hebei-Chahar Pacification Headquarters. As I was then Judge Advocate of the said Headquarters, these facts came to my personal knowledge while discharging official duties. Though the files were destroyed when Peiping was evacuated in July, 1937, they could easily be traced in the newspapers then published. These were not merely conducts of individuals, acting upon their own volition. The Japanese Government was really behind them. Otherwise, they could have hardly spread so widely over various localities in North China. It can be further proved by the fact that the orders issued by the Chinese Government to the local authorities for the expulsion of these notorious opium and other drug dealers could not be carried out, on account of the direct or indirect interference of either the Japanese Army or the Japanese Embassy or both.

345

Apart from poisoning the Chinese people with opium and other narcotic drugs, the activities of these dealers were closely related to the war of aggression. Their presence in hinterland and their connections with questionable Chinese elements in different localities were very helpful to the Japanese in collecting information of various nature and in getting acquainted with geographical features which are very useful to them in carrying out a war of aggression. This could be proved by the fact that the Japanese Army captured the entire Province of Hopei within one month following the outbreak of war at the Marco Polo Bridge.

Since the war started in 1937, the Japanese installed, under the puppet "North China Political Council", the Board of opium-Suppression, with branch offices in Peiping, Tientsin, Tsinan, Tsingtao, Tangshan, Shihmeng and with sub-branches in many other cities. The purpose of these institutions was, contrary to what was indicated by their names, to carry on large scale narcotization in China. Within specified areas, planting of poppy was permitted upon paying considerable tax to the Board of Opium-Suppression. License for opium retail shops and opium dens were issued upon application and payment of fees. Opium, duly taxed and stamped, was treated as lawful commodity that could be freely possessed, transported and sold everywhere. Opium smokers can freely smoke it upon registration and payment of fees. Unstamped opium was regarded as smuggled goods and was confiscated by the said Board. The confiscated opium was not destroyed but auctioned by the said Board to be sold by opium dealers.

Most of the opium found its way to the manufacturers of heroin. The manufacture and transportation of heroin were under the direct patronage or protection of Japanese Army and Gendarme. The puppet "Government", knowing how very harmful this was to the Chinese people, was powerless to interfere. In fact, many licensed opium dealers were themselves manufacturers of heroin. This greatly intensified the poisoning of the Chinese people.

Since 1944, the market price of opium went up so much as to stimulate the smuggling of opium from Kalgan. The traffic was carried on by a well organized group under the leadership of Japanese and Korean rascals. In order to avoid discovery along the border, opium was wrapped in small pack rubber sacks and concealed in delicate parts of the body for transportation into Peiping and Tientsin. Newspapers of those days reported shocking tales of how leakage from these small rubber sacks caused the death of many smugglers, who were made first victims of Japanese Drug Policy.

(III) Japanese atrocities roughly classified under the following two categories:

- A. Atrocities of Japanese army units against Chinese noncombatants in rural districts. These atrocities were so numerous that only a few remarkable instances were cited below:

1. Commander Mizuno (), Chief Intelligence Officer Kagawa (), Assistant Intelligence Officer Ebi () of the 38th Battalion of the 4204 Japanese Army Unit, massacred 128 innocent women and children by swords or by burying them alive, on the 24th day of the third month, Chinese lunar calendar, in 1945, at Chuan-Twen-Tseng village, 4th District,

345

Chiao-Ho-Hsien, in Hopei Province. This was covered by a report of the local Government of Chiao-Ho-Hsien which includes a list of the victims.

2. The Ishimatsu () Unit Commander with his troops killed more than 40 noncombatants on January 27th and 28th, 1938, when passing through Wang-Chia-To Village of Kao-Yang Hsien in Hopei Province. Again, the same Ishimatsu Unit murdered 67 innocent civilians on February 25th, 1938, at Po-Shih-Chuang Village, in the same Kao-Yang Hsien.

3. 2nd Lt. Yamazaki (), together with his subordinate officers Nakamura (), Yokoo (), Shirai (), Onishi () and the troops under his command, massacred more than 200 innocent people in September, 1943, while stationed at Kao-Yang Hsien, in Hopei Province. Again the same group arrested many people and caused to death to more than one thousand non-combatants by starvation or freezing. Also in September 1943, when passing through Jen-Chiu Hsien, in Hopei Province.

The atrocities cited above were recorded in the report of the Hopei Provincial Government.

B. Atrocities of Japanese Gendarmes, Special Service Corps, Railway Garrison Corps, and Special Service Boards against Chinese people including puppet officers, officials, merchants and citizens.

During Japanese occupation, atrocities committed against the Chinese people by Japanese Gendarmes were well known. The Railway Garrison Corps in searching passengers on the railways were as cruel and fierce as the Gendarmes. Since September 1943, Japanese organized the so-called 'North China Special Garrison Corps', or simply '1420A Unit.' Those stationed in Peiping were the notorious and well known Mitani Unit (). In plain cloth and in disguise, the officers and men of this '1420A Unit' arrested Chinese at random and tortured them in various ways. This Unit was divided into ten companies scattering all over North China. They were far worse than the Gendarmes. Lt. General Kato (), Commander of Japanese Gendarmes in North China, was concurrently Commander of this '1420A Unit'. Many Gendarme officers were transferred to serve in this newly created corps.

In discharging my duties as a Judge of the Military Court for Trying War Criminals in the General Headquarters of the Eleventh War Zone, I came to know many atrocities committed by Japanese. These atrocities may be classified as follows:

1. Burning of villages.
Hsin-Kuo-Chuang, a village in the vicinity of Tangshan City, was burned in the Spring of 1943 by Japanese Gendarmes and the Ling-Si Branch of the Japanese Special Garrison Corps under the command of Tokami (), a warrant Officer. In this village of more than 400 families, there was only one house

345

left unburned and only twenty inhabitants left alive. (Evidence: See Court Records of January 1946 when I conducted proceeding in the Military Court trying Tokami. The records were taken by clerk Hsiun-Yuan Wang).

2. Prisoners bitten to death by dogs
Chinese prisoners were often driven into a yard where hungry police dogs immediately set upon them and tore them to pieces. (Evidence: same as in the preceding paragraph).

3. Forcing water into the nostrils of prisoners.
With Chinese prisoners tightly bound on their back, large quantity of water or even pepper water was poured into them through the nostrils. With water getting into their lungs, prisoners would spit blood or die after fainting. (Evidence: confession of Japanese Sergeant Hayashida, Fujio (), formerly of the Special Garrison Corps in Han-Tan-Hsien, Hopei Province, made at the above mentioned Court during trial conducted by me on 22nd January 1946. Proceedings recorded by clerk Hsiun-Yuan Wang).

4. Torture by electric current
To force confession from Chinese prisoners by passing electric current of small voltage over their bodies.

5. Torture by burning
Live matches were applied to the head of prisoners. Red hot iron clubs were applied to the skins of prisoners.

6. Wooden rods were thrust into the genital organs of women (Evidence: (4) to (6) above, see Records of the investigation of Yamaguchi, Toshiharu (), formerly Chief of Japanese Police Station at Feng-Tai, conducted in the above-mentioned Court.)

7. Compulsory sexual intercourse of men and women who were strangers to each other. If they refused to do as ordered, they were immediately shot to death.

8. Pretty women were accused to be members of the Communist Army. Burning matches were applied to the hair on delicate parts of their body just to poke fun out of their shyness, evasiveness and pain.

9. Corn was thrust into the genital organs of women (Atrocities listed under (7) to (9) above were committed by Katsugawa (), rank unidentified, in April 1942, at Feng-Jung Hsien, Hopei Province. See report of the Hopei Provincial Office of the Kuomintang Party.)

The above crimes based upon documental evidence were but a very small fraction of the innumerable inhuman atrocities committed by the Japanese.

I hereby testify that the facts in this statement are facts either obtained through my personal experience or brought to

345

my knowledge during trials of Japanese war criminals conducted by myself in Court Proceedings. They represent true facts.

(signed) Col. Cheng-Ying Kiang,

Formerly Judge Advocate (with Colonel's rank) the Hopei-Chahar Pacification Headquarters. Now, Colonel Judge of the Military Court, General Headquarters, the Eleventh War Zone of China.

Date: March 23rd, 1946 (the 35th Year of the Republic of China).

This is to certify that the above statement was made by Col. Cheng Ying Kiang himself.

(signed) Hsiun-Yuan Wang,

Formerly Judge (with Captain's rank), the Hopei-Chahar Pacification Headquarters. Now, Chief Clerk (with Captain's rank) of the Military Court, General Headquarters, the Eleventh War Zone of China.

Date: 23 March 1946 (the 35th Year of the Republic of China.)